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Abstracts

ETTORE CINNELLA, L'invenzione del comunismo nell'antica Grecia: *Le donne all'assemblea* di Aristofane

Aristophanes' play *Ecclesiazuse* (Assembly of Women) has generally been read as a satire of Plato's "Communism" and the communist theories of his time. This article shows how in Aristophanes' Greece there wasn't anything similar to the communist utopias of contemporary world. Indeed it was the playwright himself who invented the utopia of Communism, which in the *Ecclesiazusae* is supported and carried out by the women of Athens in order to save the polis. Surprisingly the communist program announced in the play has many things in common with the egalitarian theories developed in the modern and contemporary world. The main difference consists in the attention paid by Aristophanes to biological laws and man's egotistic nature which could prevent the egalitarian project from being put into practice. In the *Ecclesiazusae* women seize power and introduce Communism. This article also explores whether this world turned upside down has got some carnivalesque features, in the sense given to this term by Michail Bachtin in his famous book on Rabelais and popular culture.